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P24971.A01



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Mathias SCHAFFORZ
Appl. No. : 10/849,795
Filed : May 21, 2004
For : METHOD AND DEVICE FOR OPERATING A MACHINE OF THE
TOBACCO PROCESSING INDUSTRY

Group Art Unit : 1731
Examiner : Not Yet Assigned
Confirmation No. : 7973

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
220 20th Street S.
Customer Window, Mail Stop _____
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98,
Applicant hereby submits a copy of a European Search Report that was mailed on
December 11, 2003, with respect to patent family member European Patent Application
No. EP 03013931.5, in which the following documents were cited:

International Patent Application Publication No. WO 00/71332, which was
published on November 30, 2000;

U.S. Patent No. 4,648,409 to MATTEI, which issued on March 10, 1987, together
with patent family member German Patent Publication No. DE 36 00 321, which was
published on July 17, 1986. Applicant notes that both of these documents are cited on
pages 1 and 2 of the specification of the present application;

Luxembourg Patent Publication No. LU 46 676, which was published on October 3, 1964;

U.S. Patent No. 4,081,312 to CRISTIANI, which issued on March 28, 1978; and European Patent Application Publication No. EP 0 732 287, which was published on September 18, 1996, together with patent family member U.S. Patent No. 5,779,184 to KAUFMANN et al.

The category of relevance, pertinent portions, and claims to which each document is relevant, as ascertained by the European Examiner applying European rules to the European claims are set forth in the European Search Report.

Applicant also brings the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

German Patent Application Publication No. DE 102 05 055, which was published on August 14, 2003. Applicant notes that this document is cited on pages 2 and 9 of the specification of the present application;

European Patent Application Publication No. EP 1 334 666, which was published on August 13, 2003. Applicant notes that this document is cited on page 9 of the specification of the present application as European Patent Application No. EP 02 029 106.8;

European Patent Application Publication No. EP 0 595 118, which was published on May 4, 1994. Applicant notes that this document is cited on page 10 of the specification of the present application;

U.S. Patent No. 5,361,783 to HERBURG, which issued on November 8, 1994. Applicant notes that this document is cited on page 10 of the specification of the present application; and

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/145866 to HARTMANN, which was published on July 1, 2004. Applicant notes that this document is cited on page 9 of the specification of the present application.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publication are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

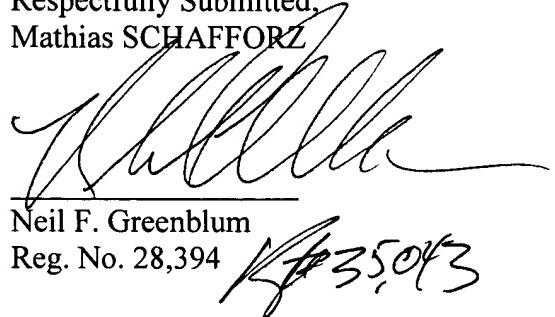
Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are attached hereto and all of the documents are listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicant with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicant notes that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mathias SCHAFFORZ

Neil F. Greenblum
Reg. No. 28,394



KF35043

August 23, 2004
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ABHAYA SRIVASTRA

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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